12th February 1955]

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" With the complete decontrol of rice with effect from 10th July 1954, the Producers-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar district are not able to compete with the traders in the open market. They, therefore, requested that they might be reorganized into multi-purpose societies with limited liability. The Government examined the above request in consultation with the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras, and found it was not possible to comply with it.

" However, the administrative control over such of the Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies, which have given up foodgrains business and which have cleared the entire dues of the Government are being transferred to the Co-operative department by the Collector of Malabar either for transformation into other normal types of co-operative institutions or for liquidation, as the case may be."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The next question can also be taken up now as it relates to the same subject."

* 663 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Malabar have stopped both wholesale and retail business in foodgrains; and

(*b*) how many of them have yet to settle their accounts with the Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Seventy-nine societies have so far stopped both wholesale and retail business in foodgrains since October 1952.

" (*b*) Forty-one societies have yet to clear the Government dues."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, the main difficulty in the administration of these societies is that the Government accounts are not settled promptly. Having given repeated assurances that steps would be taken to settle the accounts, I would like to know what steps have so far been taken? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, I cannot now specifically state what are the various steps that have been taken by the Government in settling the accounts expeditiously but I can assure the hon. Member that there is no avoidable delay in the matter."

Lands for Harijans of Kalpattu village.

* 664 *Q.*—SRI C. KANDASAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government received any representation from the Harijans of Kalpattu village of Villupuram taluk in the South Arcot district in the month of June 1954, addressed to the